

Application. No. 10/688,056
Amendment dated July 19, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 26, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 2 to 20 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 21 - 35 have been added. Claims 1 and 21 - 35 remain in the case.

The present invention features a method of determining a correct dialing sequence for use in dialing any of a plurality of telephone numbers stored in a predetermined, consistent format. Because, at any particular location, each of the plurality of telephone numbers may need to be dialed using a different dialing sequence than a dialing sequence appropriate at a different location, it is important that an automatic dialing apparatus be easily able to determine an appropriate dialing sequence, regardless of location. For example, an application program running on a personal computer system may need to place phone calls as part of its intended function. Automatic determination of a correct dialing sequence is, therefore, extremely important to the unattended operation of that computer application program. The present invention provides a method for automatically determining a proper dialing sequence without human intervention. If a dialing sequence is used that does not lead to a successful connection of the attempted call, the inventive method analyzes a result and attempts another dialing sequence. The results of attempted calls are used to update a database so that a proper dialing sequence may be more readily determined for placing a similar call in the future.

Claim 7 was objected to as being in an improper dependent form. The cancellation of claim 7 overcomes this objection.

Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 2, 3, 6, and 7 have been cancelled rendering their rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, moot. However, the terms "possible failure" and

"possible success" have been recited in the newly added claims as labels to call results. As now recited, no additional definition of meaning is required as the terms are merely labels of possible call results. Applicant respectfully notes, however, that the meaning of the terms in the context of his system is exactly the English language definition of the terms. As Applicant was not acting as his own lexicographer, the terms must be interpreted in accordance with the commonly shared definitions as might be set forth in any dictionary of the English language.

Claims 1 - 11, and 13 - 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,597,875 for AUTOMATIC CALLER-ID CALL LOG DIAL BACK, issued July 22, 2003 to Edmund Thomas Burke et al. BURKE et al. teach a system whereby a number stored in an "aaa bbb-cccc" format where aaa represents an area code, bbb represents an exchange (i.e., central office or CO) designation, and cccc represents the actual intra-office identifier of the phone, may be called back in a proper format. While the BURKE et al. apparatus and method bear some similarity to Applicant's novel method, there's one extremely significant difference: BURKE et al. require a man-in-the-loop to interpret the results of calls placed using an improper dialing sequence. In the BURKE et al. system, the user must listen to the call being dialed to gain information concerning the successful (or, more particularly, the unsuccessful) completion of the call. Human intervention is required before the BURKE et al. system attempts the same call using an alternate dialing sequence.

In contradistinction, Applicant's system TOTALLY AUTOMATICALLY analyzes the result of calls dialed using an improper dialing sequence. In addition, Applicant's system AUTOMATICALLY (i.e., without human intervention) retries the call using a different dialing sequence when a first dialing sequence fails to yield a successfully connected call. This allows Applicant's novel method to be used, for example, in a computer application program where calling may be accomplished without need for human intervention.

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In addition, Applicant's system stores categorized results (i.e., call results) of attempted calls and draws inferences therefrom. For properly completed calls, Applicant's system identifies the dialing sequence used to properly complete the call. Henceforth, all calls to the same area code and exchange may use the identified dialing sequence. In the case where a previously proper dialing sequence no longer functions properly, the call result database is automatically updated with a revised, proper calling sequence.

Applicant has amended claim 1 to positively recite the automatic performance of several of the method steps thereof, thereby clearly defining over the BURKE et al. apparatus and method. Claims 2 - 20 have been cancelled thereby rendering their rejection moot. Consequently, the rejection of claims 1 - 11 and 13 - 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) is believed overcome. Moreover, newly added claims 21 - 35 also clearly define over BURKE et al.

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over BURKE et al. in view of United States Patent No. 6,580,789 for AUTOMATED PREFIX DIALING SYSTEM, issued July 17, 2003 to Claude O. Simpson et al. As discussed hereinabove, Applicant's novel method is fundamentally different and patentably distinct from that of BURKE et al. Adding the teaching of SIMPSON et al. still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's automatic system. The Examiner has relied on SIMPSON et al. solely to teach the use of an alternate long distance carrier. Applicant believes that the limitation of an alternate long distance carrier as now recited in newly added claim 29 is merely an added limitation to the independent claim now believed allowable. The amendment of claim 1 and the cancellation of original claim 12 have overcome the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

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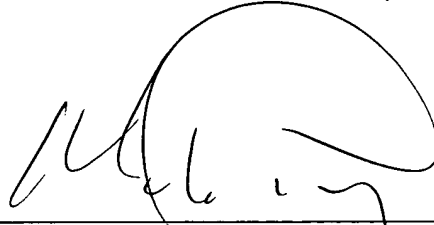
Applicant believes that claims 1, and 21 - 35 are allowable and therefore respectfully requests that claims 1 and 21 - 35 be allowed and the application passed to issue.

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